

WEETAMOO WOODS

Parking and entrance on East Road, Tiverton, Rhode Island
Managed by Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission
Trail maps available in PDF at <http://www.tiverton.ri.gov/recreation/recreation.html>



The forest in Weetamoo Woods is predominantly coastal oak-holly, a hardwood community of oaks and American holly trees found along coastal areas of southern New England. This 750-acre mature woodland contains some trees that survived the 1938 Hurricane and are now 125–150 years of age. Located interior to the upland oak-holly forest is a forested swamp with stands of Atlantic white cedar. These cedars were once common in “cedar swamps” along the Eastern Seaboard. Because they were harvested extensively in colonial times and because cedars regenerate slowly, authentic Atlantic white cedar swamps are now rare.

The unfragmented forest in Weetamoo Woods creates excellent habitat for area sensitive species, including canopy nesting birds that require deep woods, such as scarlet tanager, veery, Acadian flycatcher, worm-eating warbler, blue-winged warbler, wood thrush and Baltimore oriole. Raptors present include barred and horned owls, and the red-tailed hawk.

Whitetail deer, opossum, raccoon, fox, coyote, chipmunk, eastern grey and red squirrels also live in this forest. Each year wood frogs and peepers signal the beginning of spring with their mating chorus heard from vernal pools that are scattered throughout Weetamoo Woods.

The following trees and forest understory plants are found along the hiking trails:

Trees: black oaks, scarlet oaks, white oaks, northern red oaks, American holly, American beech, yellow birch, black birch, eastern hemlock, eastern hophornbeam, muscledwood, eastern white pine, sassafras, tupelo, black cherry, red maple, and white ash.

Shrubs: spicebush, blueberry, huckleberry, mountain laurel, arrowwood, nannyberry, sweet pepperbush, elderberry, wild sarsaparilla, and winterberry.

Wildflowers: (Spring) bellwort, wild columbine, Canada mayflower, false solomon’s seal, wild geranium, jack-in-the-pulpit, blue flag iris, partridgeberry, starflower, trout lily, violets, wood anemone, pink lady’s slipper, squaw-root. (Summer/Fall) whorled loosestrife, cardinal flower, Indian pipe, jewelweed, meadow-rue, and spotted wintergreen.

Ferns: cinnamon fern, lady fern, royal fern, sensitive fern, intermediate wood fern, New York fern, hay-scented fern, netted chain fern, Christmas fern, marginal wood fern and the common polypody.

Be kind to the natural essence of these woods and enjoy your visit between sunrise and sunset. Do not remove or disturb vegetation or any object intrinsic to Weetamoo Woods. Use only marked trails. All motorized vehicles prohibited.